

# COMMANDO

ANY TIME, ANY PLACE



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**DUI-FREE**

Congratulations to the 39th Information Operations Squadron for more than 1,375 days without a DUI.

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Photo by Dylan Laurie

# Developing vision for next Air Commando leaders

by Lt. Col. Christopher Ireland  
15th SOS director of operations

"A true sign of leadership is not how well you run your organization, but how well it runs once you're gone." — Anonymous senior non-commissioned officer

To lead Air Commandos in the Global War on Terrorism, today's Special Operations Forces leader must be able to visualize the way ahead, lead their Airmen to the end state and "power-down" authorities to the lowest levels commensurate with the risk.

Frequently our SOF taskings require us to operate not just "Anytime, Anyplace," but often in conditions more closely resembling "Alone and Unafraid."

How then do we, the Air Commandos of today, prepare

the next generation to lead in such uncertain environments?

We must, without fail, ensure they receive every opportunity to learn from, and participate in, today's leadership challenges.

The five steps in U.S. Army Field Manual 6-0, the service's doctrinal model for combat leadership, has something to offer Air Commandos in this respect.

We must leave them with the capacity to visualize the nature and design of operations, to describe their vision to staff and subordinate commanders, to direct the execution of their vision, and to personally lead and assess their organization

throughout.

As Airmen, we receive professional military education to improve our communication skills to describe and direct. As Air Commandos, we are trained to execute specific tactical tasks.

We use our technical "know-how" to lead and assess people and processes. Visualization is the first critical step in the process.

Learning to visualize does not come from a PME syllabus, nor can you be trained at tech school

to acquire this skill. More often than not, experience is the only teacher.

Unless the Air Commandos of today take the time to share our experiences, the Air Commando leaders of tomorrow will be forced to re-learn our lessons the hard way.

Yet, visualization

requires more than simply pulling from personal or collective experiences. Fundamentally, visualization requires decision making as well.

Our experiences tell us that visualizing a course of action can be a very intricate, deliberate decision-making process.

Other times, it might require a split-second decision. When afforded the time, grab your junior leaders and describe to them what you're thinking, what issues you're considering, how you're weighing risk and get their inputs. When you don't have the time, be directive and get the mission done ... but be sure later on to use a debrief or similar tool to

**"We must, without fail, ensure they receive every opportunity to learn from, and participate in, today's leadership challenges."**



Courtesy photo

**MC-130 H Combat Talon from the 15th Special Operations Squadron refuels a helicopter over the Gulf of Mexico.**

pass on the "how and why" of your decisions.

The ensuing discussion will put vital tools in their leadership kit bags. As you grow these junior leaders, you'll find they're able to anticipate your decisions. As their anticipation grows, so grows their own ability to visualize.

In reality, this model of combat leadership is not limited to combat only. Applied properly, visualize, describe, direct, lead and assess are fundamental leadership steps for any scenario. They can provide certainty in uncertain times.

As the Global War on Terrorism evolves, our nation will require Air

Commando leaders to reach timely, appropriate decisions in uncertain conditions.

So here's my challenge to you: In order to develop the next generation of Air Commandos, you must take the time to "read in" the next generation of Air Force Special Operation Command leaders into your decision making process.

Passing on your visualization techniques does not require any cosmic PowerPoint briefing or training session — just your time. Have you taken the time to ensure your organization, led by the next generation of Air Commando leaders, will succeed once you've moved on?

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## Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is noon Monday for briefs the week of publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call.

## Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to the base commander for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO.

Other questions will be answered by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not

satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give the commander a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to [commando@hurlburt.af.mil](mailto:commando@hurlburt.af.mil).

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# Air Force Best Practice submissions wanted ASAP

by **Jamie Haig**  
Contract writer

With the impending Installation Excellence Award assessment team visit, the 1st Special Operations Mission Support Squadron Manpower Office sent an e-mail to units requesting proposals for Air Force Best Practices to reinforce the reasons Hurlburt Field should be given the award.

An Air Force Best Practice is defined on the Air Force Manpower Agency Web page as "a superior method or innovative practice that contributes to the improved performance of the process."

"I've e-mailed all of the Installation Excellence Award points of contact from each unit requesting they give us a proposal of one or more best practices," said Brenda Smith, 1st SOMSS Manpower Office. "The units will submit the proposals to me, and I will give them to Air Force Special Operations Command for validation."

The AFMA Web page lists the rules of engagement in submitting a best practice. The best practice should be based on one or more of the six criteria listed in the ROE.

There's a short form that needs to be completed and instructions on finalizing

the package.

"It's not a long form and shouldn't take a lot of time to complete," Ms. Smith said.

"Submitting at the Air Force level shows innovation and leadership," said Lt. Col. Steven Kimball, 1st Special Operations Mission Support Group deputy commander, who is in charge of the IEA visit. "It shows other bases that our way of doing business is worth emulating."

The form requires a summary of the best practice and the impact on the process or organizational process. It must have a staff summary sheet attached showing approval throughout the unit. The package should be delivered to the 1st SOMSS Manpower Office.

AFSOC will then review and validate the best practice, and if approved, the end results will be listed on the form and on the AFMA Web page.

"These are the qualities that the IEA assessment team will be here to observe," Colonel Kimball said.

The IEA team visits Hurlburt Field Jan. 29-31, so submissions must be made immediately.

"Our competition is tough. Columbus and Mountain Home Air Force Bases have already submitted and approved

Air Force level best practices," Colonel Kimball said.

"We know the Air Commandos can do better."

Submissions may be turned into Ms. Smith anytime between now and Tuesday. The forms and instructions may be found at: [https://www.afma.randolph.af.mil/orgunits/MAP/MAPI/awards/6\\_AF%20Best%20Practices/index.asp](https://www.afma.randolph.af.mil/orgunits/MAP/MAPI/awards/6_AF%20Best%20Practices/index.asp).

The 1st SOMSS Manpower Office is located in Bldg. 90210, Room 218. For more information, call 884-6805.



## Involuntary phase for NCO retrain program begins

AFPN

Airmen identified as required to retrain under Phase II of the Air Force Fiscal 2007 Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program must submit a retraining application by Monday or separate from the Air Force.

After meeting the deadline, Phase II eligible's must choose an Air Force specialty code from a list of available AFSCs and submit a completed retraining application by Feb. 28.

Depending on what number you are on the list, if you haven't submitted a retraining package by the deadline, the more likely that you will be separated from the Air Force, said a source at the 1st Special Operations Mission Support Squadron employment office.

Many people believe that if they ignore the listing with their name on it that they will be able to remain in their current career field, which is untrue. Each individual is thoroughly tracked through Air Force Personnel Center and all of the individual's efforts to actively participate in the retraining program are being tracked.

Any Airman identified as vulnerable for retraining who fails to submit the initial retraining request will be determined to have officially declined retraining.

"Airmen selected for retraining who have the necessary retainability cannot decline retraining," said Chief Master Sgt. Christine Williams, chief of the Air Force Personnel Center enlisted skills management

See **NCO**, page 17

## Welcome to the Majors! *New year - new majors at Hurlburt Field*

*Congratulations to the following major-selects:*

### Air Force Special Operations Command

Shawn Beauchamp  
Rhonda Crawford  
David Emery  
John Frueh  
Robert Lyons  
Christopher Schumpp

### Air Force Special Operations Forces

Adam Fiedler  
Travis Woodworth

### 1st Special Operations Wing Staff

Erin Bender  
Marilyn Garcia

### 1st Special Operations Comptroller Squadron

Allison Chisholm

### 1st Special Operations

### Group

Allison Black

### 1st Special Operations Support Squadron

David Baumgartner  
Ryan Bohner  
Donald Greene  
Andrew Jennings  
Marc Llacuna  
John Mah  
Phillip Miller

### 3rd Special Operations Squadron

Steven Beattie  
Steven Betschart  
William Mitchell  
Lichen Pursley  
Kevin Quattlebaum  
Robin Schaeffer

### 4th SOS

Carlos Alvarado  
Zachary Barker  
Joshua Hartig  
Kevin Huber

William Nelson

Derek Price  
Meghan Ripple  
Lance Rosamiranda  
Michael Shreves

### 6th SOS

James Abbott  
Hartmut Casson  
Matthew Jones  
Cheree Kochen

### 8th SOS

William Julian

### 9th SOS

Yvonne Carrico  
Jason Crawford  
Janelle Percy  
Josh Rieder

### 15th SOS

William Alexander  
Justin Lewis  
Nathaniel Miller  
Daniel Thomas  
Chiafei Wu

### 16th SOS

Douglas Brown  
Philip Forbes  
Jason Mier

### 19th SOS

George Cundiff  
William Triplett

### 20th SOS

James Blanchard  
Francis Cooper  
Lawrence Graham  
Timothy Matlock  
Brian Roberts  
Scott Yeatman

### 73rd SOS

Andrew Biro

### 1st Special Operations Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Marc Walker

see **MAJORS**, page 17

# Airmen build future with present mission



Photo by Pfc. William Hatton

**Airman 1st Class Christopher Birkland, 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron, hammers nails for the exterior wall of an office building being built in Iraq Dec. 28.**

**by Pfc. William Hatton**  
*Multi-National Division - Baghdad*  
*public affairs*

## **Baghdad, Iraq**

There are many things that go into constructing buildings that servicemembers live and work in while serving in Iraq.

In order for offices, dining facilities and dormitories to become a reality, someone drew plans, ordered supplies and constructed every room.

That construction responsibility falls on Airmen from the 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron at Hurlburt Field.

Right behind the Multi-National Division - Baghdad building, Airmen are building four small offices so that other servicemembers can expand and further complete the mission at hand, said Senior Airman Luis Villarreal, a

civil engineer from the 1st SOCES.

"Being out here and having the opportunity to apply what I've trained for is something I enjoy," the Dallas native said.

Applying what he learned at technical school makes being in Iraq constructing buildings something enjoyable, said Airman Nick Soracco, a civil engineer with the 1st SOCES.

Being with friends makes the job even better, the Macon, Ga., native added.

"We're all close out here," Airman Soracco said.

"We spend a lot of hours together working, and with that comes a lot of camaraderie."

The new building will give them a place to report to when doing their regular job of conducting base maintenance like fixing broken doors and windows.

"It's our chance to really learn what we're meant to do," he added. "It's also nice because we get the opportunity to get our hands dirty."

One of the hardest parts of the job is the manual labor.

"Hammering all day can really wear you out," Airman Soracco said.

When the building is complete and everything has been done, from electric to plumbing, the feeling of having completed the mission is exhilarating, Airman Villarreal said.

"You really get a sense of what you've done when you come out to a site like this, that is just dirt, and when you finish there are offices so people can complete their mission," Airman Villarreal said.

"Once our mission is complete, it's time to pack up, move out and start building another building that's needed," Airman Soracco said.

## *Airman motivated to build better protective turret*

**by Staff Sgt. Scott McNabb**  
*447th AEG public affairs*

**SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq** - Sometimes a tragedy inspires others to strive for excellence. That's what happened here for two Air Force units near Baghdad as they worked together to bring in some good for fellow Airmen.

Airman 1st Class Lee-Bernard Emmanuel Chavis was killed while patrolling the streets of Baghdad Oct. 14 in the turret of his armored humvee.

His death motivated a team of vehicle maintenance Airmen to design and build a new protective turret to avoid similar deaths.

"This is a story about Airmen helping Airmen," said Col. Gregory Marston, 447th Air Expeditionary Group commander.

"We're trying to help the people who go outside the wire by giving them the best equipment they can have. This just goes one step further."

The original, custom-made turret has been dubbed the "Chavis Turret" in honor of Airman Chavis.

The initial prototype was made from scrounged materials using pieces cannibal-

ized from junked vehicles and old parts. The design was a combined effort by Airmen of Det. 7, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and the 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's vehicle maintenance shop.

"We believe this new turret design solves many or all of the vulnerabilities that earlier designs have missed," the commander said.

"Right now, there's no standardization in terms of up-armored humvee turret designs."

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Rossi, 447th ELRS vehicle

maintenance superintendent, challenged Staff Sgt. Derrick Bowman and Senior Airmen John Adams and Richard Gil, who are all deployed from the 1st Special Operations Logistics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, to man the Tiger Team tasked with redesigning the turret.

Airman Gil said his initial reaction to being selected to work on the turret was total surprise.

"I feel like this has been the most important and highest impact part of my military career," he said.

"The first thing we did was ask the troops who actu-

ally use the turret what they would like to see," Airman Adams said. "From there, we researched what parts would go where and what would be most beneficial to the actual cause."

Colonel Marston was impressed with how the team members donated so much of their off time in an environment where time off is rare.

"It's a great story because three young Airmen are using their off time to scrape up spare parts and cannibalize all the pieces they need to design this prototype," the colonel said. "We've had a lot

of really positive comments from Det. 7 and the Army personnel."

Sergeant Bowman said the turret allows the gunner to remain protected from multiple threats in all directions.

"One big benefit is the increased protection from improvised explosive devices," Sergeant Bowman said.

"That was one of the biggest things the Det. 7 guys we talked to were worried about.

"We also added a removable wire cutter to the front of the shield to protect the lead truck from choke wires strung under overpasses."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott McNabb

**Col. Gregory Marston, 447th Air Expeditionary Group, commander, talks to security forces and logistics readiness Airmen after the first vehicle equipped with a Chavis Turret was handed over the security forces for testing.**





Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela Shepherd

## Right there's good

The first CV-22 arrived at Hurlburt Field Jan. 5. The 8th Special Operations Squadron tilt-rotor aircraft combines vertical take-off, landing and hover capabilities.

# Hurlburt Field commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



by Dylan Laurie  
Contract writer

Monday is the national holiday honoring the accomplishments of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who devoted his life to the benefit of others as a leader of the Civil Rights movement during the 1950s and '60s.

Staff Sgt. Terrance Jones, 1st Special Operations Wing Military Equal Opportunity technician, said MEO hopes to re-energize the base community with this year's MLK commemorative service and breakfast Jan. 19 at 8 a.m. at the base chapel.

"Everyone wants to know what's going on," Sergeant Jones said. "I get several calls a day from people wanting to know what we're doing for MLK. It means a lot to me because it honors the contributions of the late great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., not only to the African-American community, but also to the whole world."

Sergeant Jones has personal ties to the Civil Rights movement.

"I have several family members who attended marches in Montgomery, Ala., and different gatherings during the Civil Rights movement," Sergeant Jones said. "One of my aunts was arrested while attending a demonstration."

Sergeant Jones has worked with members of the African-American Heritage Committee and the African-American Cultural Society to coordinate this year's event which will include guest speaker Dr. Bernard Yates, from the Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church of Pensacola, and a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. choir group made up of interested parties who have access to the base.

"The theme again is not a day off but a day on," Sergeant Jones said. "A lot of people look at it as we're going to take the day off and do nothing, but that wasn't the message he wanted to send. Do something, get out in the community, talk to the youth and find out what's going on. Recognize that the message he was trying to teach

was equality for everyone."

In December 2006, a National Observance Committee was established for Hurlburt Field to improve base involvement by designating a specific observance to a specific group to ensure chair and co-chair positions are established for each observance committee, according to Master Sgt. Jeannie Crosby, 1st SOW/MEO superintendent.

"Last year, we sought volunteers from the base populace for the chair and co-chair positions," Sergeant Crosby said. "This process didn't always yield volunteers for all observance committees. This will ensure no observance falls by the wayside."

Sergeant Jones believes many military members do not take advantage of the means the military provides for them to distinguish the contributions made by ethnic groups.

"Commanders at all levels can encourage and allow unit members to volunteer for committees or attend planned events," Sergeant Crosby

said. "This is an opportunity for learning, development and education."

On April 3, 1968, while in Memphis, Tenn., Dr. King delivered his "Mountaintop" speech to a crowd of 2,000 supporters. The next day, he stepped out onto his motel balcony and was assassinated.

Dr. King will forever be remembered for the progress he made to the Civil Rights movement and his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

"My dream would be that people have more respect for one another; stop putting so much emphasis on social status," Sergeant Jones said. "If we all could just treat each other the same and not let our perception and prejudices cloud our actions, I know this world would be a far better place to live."

This world has come a long way in improving social equality, but we still have a very long way to go. I am really looking forward to that day when we love our neighbor as we truly love ourselves."

# 505th redesignates squadron

by 1st Lt. Stacey Wiggins  
705th CTS

The 505th Distributed Warfare Group, part of Hurlburt's 505th Command and Control Wing, took on the new "Combat Training Squadron" designation Dec. 18.

The squadron was redesignated from exercise control squadron to combat training squadrons to reflect the true nature of the combat crew training they provide.

Hurlburt was part of the first-ever "distributed" redesignation ceremony. The 705th CTS, based at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., and 505th CTS, located next to the Hurlburt Air Park held the ceremony via video conference. Each squadron read their own redesignation order, and proceeded to decommission their guidons and commission a new standard.

This unique ceremony fits exactly into the mission of the 505th DWG as the only unit in

the Air Force that conducts virtual command and control training, testing, exercising and experimentation for joint and coalition warfighters.

The 505th CTS is the professional control force and focal point for Combined Forces Air Component Commander team training in the joint exercise environment and is well known for conducting BLUE FLAG, from various area of command locations throughout the United States.

*"The change in designation from exercise control squadron to combat training squadron aligns the functions of the 505th CTS..."*

— Lt. Col. John Morehead  
505th CTS Commander

"The change in designation from exercise control squadron to combat training squadron aligns the functions of the

505th CTS provides at the operational level of war under BLUE FLAG with what the other USAF combat training squadrons provide at the tactical level of war," said Lt. Col. John Morehead, 505th CTS commander;

(Editors note: Staff Sgt. Kelly Ogden contributed to this article)

## Air Commando Salute Staff Sgt. Samuel Dykes



Photo by Jamie Haig

Staff Sgt. Samuel Dykes, 505th Communications Squadron, is from Plant City, Fla. His hobbies include carpentry and computers.

Sergeant Dykes is fully dedicated to the well being of the squadron and does everything in his power to make the squadron a better place. He comes in early and leaves late nearly every day.

When something needs to be accomplished or a question answered, he is the man to ask.

His favorite part about being stationed at Hurlburt is the people that he has had the opportunity to work with and the wealth of knowledge that he has found.

Sergeant Dykes's advice to Airmen is not to put things off until tomorrow if it can be accomplished today.

(For information on submitting an Airman for the Air Commando Salute, call the 1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464.)



Photo by 1st Lt. Amy Cooper

### Welcome home!

A family waits anxiously in Commando Hangar for the rotator plane from Southwest Asia which arrived early Monday morning during Operation Homecoming.

## Tax season tips for the savvy

Tax season is sooner than you think – file early and get your return sooner!

Hurlburt Field is providing in-person assistance in preparing tax returns beginning Jan. 22.

The tax center is open to all Air Force personnel including active duty, guard, reservist, retirees and family members. It is staffed by volunteers who are trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service and are knowledgeable in answering tax questions and filing returns.

The tax center is located in Bldg. 90710, Room A4, otherwise known as the 1st Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron building. To find room A4, enter the foyer and go left, the door

is straight ahead. The tax center will open for walk-ins on Jan. 22, and will be open by appointment only starting Jan. 29.

The phone number for the tax center is 884-7542 (available beginning Jan. 22).

Military members wanting to complete their own return beginning Jan. 15 can use a free online program through [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Don't get caught up in the April 15 rush. File early for an early return.

According to the IRS customers who plan to claim adjustments to income based on tuition and fees or Educators Expense, or if those using the Sales Tax Deduction on Schedule A cannot e-file until early February.



# Air Force makes changes to BAH policy

by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
AFPN

Beginning in January, the Air Force and the other military services will eliminate geographic rate protection for basic allowance for housing.

Over the last five years, geographic rate protection meant BAH rates around military communities could never drop, even when estimates for median housing costs in an area suggested they should.

Under the current system, new arrivals at an installation would receive the protected BAH rate, even if housing rates in the area had dropped and adequate housing was available for them at a lower cost.

In 2007, BAH rates will fluctuate yearly based on housing cost estimates made from data collected regionally by military housing offices. The budget-conscious move by the Department of Defense is designed to save money at a time when resources are tight.

Under the new system, people who remain in an area will never see a lowering of their individual BAH rate. That policy, called individual rate protection, is designed to ensure Airmen and other military members who have already established homes aren't faced with a cut in their BAH rate.

Individual rate protection is designed to protect Airmen when the median housing rates in an area drop but landlords don't lower rents to match them. Individual rate protection ensures Airmen will always receive ample funding to remain in the homes they have established, and at the same time provides

DOD a common-sense way to fund that allowance.

But the policy will create situations where two military members of the same rank and with the same dependent status may receive different BAH rates. Individual rate protection allows in-place members to keep their BAH rate for a region while BAH rates in the area may fall.

"When you signed your lease, you were locked into a rate in a housing market that had a higher cost, on average," said Capt. Charles Parada, chief of the Air Force's BAH program. "But a newcomer could face a lower-cost market."

Captain Parada says whatever BAH rate a member receives at a new duty station will be fair.

"The new BAH program will always allow you to afford adequate housing for your grade and dependency status in the current market," he said.

Captain Parada also said that all members in a region are entitled to increases in the BAH rate as they occur.

Besides changes to rate protection, there are two additional changes to BAH coming for the Air Force and other services in the 2007.

The first is the elimination of BAH differential for members living off base. The second is a change to in-transit BAH rates for new Airmen.

"What members will be paid now is a BAH rate with dependents, versus the BAH differential," Captain Parada said. "In most cases, the new rate will be an increase for members, though in some areas it may be lower."

The BAH differential is a flat rate, based on grade, paid

to members who are paying court-ordered child support.

In 2007, the differential will no longer exist for members residing off base. Instead, they will receive the BAH with-dependents rate, even if they have no dependents in their home.

Because the BAH with-dependents rate fluctuates from region to region, some members in low-cost housing markets may receive less money than they had with the flat-rate BAH differential, though the situation occurs in few areas, Captain Parada said.

The BAH differential rate will also be eliminated outside the United States. But there, members receive an overseas housing allowance, or OHA, instead of the Stateside BAH.

Like in the United States, with the elimination of the BAH differential, members overseas residing off base will begin receiving the Overseas Housing Allowance with-dependent rate.

But unlike in the United States, overseas members do not always receive the full OHA. Instead, they receive only that amount they spend on rent.

For those members, it will be impossible to extract the extra benefit provided by an OHA with-dependent rate to use toward child support.

Captain Parada said the move was the best possible solution found by DOD to provide the best benefit to the most members.

"All four services had to come to an agreement on these issues, to find a solution most equitable for the most members," he said. "This was the best solution to benefit most members."



Photo by 1st Lt. Amy Cooper

## I missed you

A military spouse awaits her husband's return Monday morning at the Air Commando hangar during Operation Homecoming.

## Military housing rates boosted 3.5 percent overall

by Gerry Gilmore  
AFPN

Servicemembers will receive an average 3.5 percent boost in their basic allowance for housing compensation benefit in 2007.

The BAH increase that went into effect Jan. 1 works out to about \$300 million more than what was paid in 2006, officials said.

"The continued improvement in housing allowances represents our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future," said Cynthia Smith, a DOD spokesperson.

Officials said military housing allowances are computed according to three key criteria: median current market rent, average utilities to include electricity, heat and water/sewer costs, and average renter's insurance.

BAH rates also are based on dwelling type and num-

ber of bedrooms in a given area and then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without family members. For servicemembers with family members, average increases in the BAH are approximately \$44 per month.

For example, a typical E-4 will receive about \$34 more in BAH than in 2006, while an E-8 will receive about \$42 more than 2006.

"I think the increase is well deserved," said Tech. Sgt. Michael LaVanway, Air Force Special Operations Forces. "Living on the Emerald Coast comes at a price, and this increase will help offset that."

The BAH rate system has built-in protections to ensure that an individual servicemember in a given location won't see his or her BAH rate decrease.

This provision assures members who have made long-term lease or contract commitments are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

(Editors note: Staff Sgt. Kelly Ogden contributed to this article)

# Inside the gates...

## Change of Command

Col. Jerry Harris Jr. takes command of the 505th Training Group from Col. Patricia Hoffman at 10 a.m. today in the 505th Training Squadron auditorium. Uniform of the day applies for military. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Eric Kline at 884-9460.

## AFSA

The Air Force Sergeants Association meets at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in J.R. Rockers. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821.

## Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society is recruiting teams for the 2007 Relay for Life. Team captains for the Navarre relay teams meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Navarre. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Darcy Standish at 884-2186 or Chief Master Sgt. Rupert Richard 884-4528.

## MLK celebration

The base chapel hosts a commemorative service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 8-9 a.m. Jan. 19. For more information, call 881-5113.

## Widow support

A support group for widows of active-duty spouses, regardless of how they died, meets 12-1 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Airman & Family Readiness Center. The group focuses on dealing with grief and gaining support from other spouses. For more information, call 884-5441.

## Free child care

The next "Give Parents a Break" day is from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Jan. 20 in the Child Development Center. For more information, call the first sergeant, the base chapel, squadron commander or the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 884-5441.

## USAFSOS course

The Middle East Orientation Course convenes Jan. 22-26. This course is for personnel preparing to live in or deploy to the Middle East, who work with individuals from this region, or have a professional or analytical interest in the area.

Spouses are welcome to attend on a space-available basis. For more information, call Maj. Stephanie Kelley at 884-6793 or visit: <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou>.

## TAP seminar

The next Transition Assistance Program, a three-day workshop, is from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Jan. 23-25 in the Airman & Family Readiness Center. The program helps separating and retiring military members transition into the civilian sector. For more information, call 884-5441.

## Newcomers' brief

The next Commando Connection, a mandatory briefing for newcomers, is from 8 a.m. - noon Jan. 24 in the base theater. The brief covers base-required material. Local law enforcement officials also cover regulations concerning this area.

## Hearts Apart

The Airman & Family Readiness Center sponsors the Hearts Apart scrap booking party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Bring favorite holiday photographs to be made into scrapbook pages. Supplies and dinner are provided, and children are welcome. To R.S.V.P. by Jan. 23 or for more information, call Tech. Sgt. Diane Thomas at 884-6797.

## USAFA applications

Applications for the U.S. Air Force Academy and Preparatory School are due by Jan. 31 for classes starting in June. The programs are available to active-duty Airmen and applications must be made online. For more information, call 884-6724 or visit [www.academy-admissions.com/admissions/howtoapply/airmen.php](http://www.academy-admissions.com/admissions/howtoapply/airmen.php).

## CCAF

The cutoff date for applications for the April Community College of the Air Force graduation is Feb. 23. For more information on qualifications, call 884-6724. All transcripts and student documentation must be sent to:

**CCAF/DFRS**  
130 West Maxwell Blvd.  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. 36112

## Road closure

Construction on Bedel Street limits traffic to one lane and closes access to the flightline entrance at Bedel Street. Expect closures at Bennett Avenue and Cruz Avenue during construction. Emergency vehicles have precedence when necessary. For more information, call 884-3815.

## Toastmasters

Interested in improving public speaking and leadership skills? The Hurlburt Field Toastmasters Club meets 12-1 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of each month in Classroom J at the education center. For more information, call Betty Carden at 884-9229.

## SIU

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale offers a 16-month Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology at Hurlburt Field. For more information, call 581-9840.

## Troy University

Troy University offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate degrees. For more information, call 884-6616.

# Man on the street

## What is your New Year's resolution?



Airman 1st Class  
Rebecca Vacher  
1st Special Operations  
Services Squadron

***"I want to start school to become a dentist and take some online courses."***



Airman 1st Class  
Brian Kimbrough  
1st Special Operations  
Aircraft Maintenance  
Squadron

***"I want to gain 20 pounds of muscle this year."***



Staff Sgt. Sarah Lloyd  
1st Special Operations  
Mission Support Squadron

***"As a member of Commando Pride Airmen Center, I will mentor as many Airmen as possible."***

**Happy  
New Year!  
From the  
Commando  
staff**

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly Ogden



# And the winners are : Unit Quarterly Award Winners

The COMMANDO congratulates the following Hurlburt Field unit-level quarterly award winners:

## 3rd Special Operations Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Airman 1st Class Aaron Castaldo  
Airman 1st Class Alan Hailey  
Staff Sgt. Devon Greene  
Tech. Sgt. Mike Wimmer  
Master Sgt. Roger Justice  
Master Sgt. Robert McDonald  
2nd Lt. Adam Young  
Capt. Max Biagini

## 15th SOS

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Chad McClaren  
Staff Sgt. Brian Holmes  
Master Sgt. Daryl Bernard  
Capt. Troy Broskovetz

*Professional performers*

Senior Airman Matthew Chambers  
Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Tygrett  
Master Sgt. Christopher Ringland  
Capt. Paul Thornton

## 16th SOS

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Pena  
Tech. Sgt. Brammer  
Master Sgt. England  
1st Lt. William Ackman

*Professional performers*

Airman 1st Class Pietsch  
Tech. Sgt. G. Vasquez  
Master Sgt. Robert West  
1st Lt. Timothy Young

## 20th SOS

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Seamus Feeley  
Tech. Sgt. James Rhodes  
Master Sgt. Bob Strong  
Capt. Chris Richardson

*Professional performers*

Senior Airman Andrew Bickham  
Staff Sgt. Dan Mann  
Master Sgt. Kevin James  
Capt. Tobias Switzer

## 1st SO Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Jessica Cardenas  
Staff Sgt. Robert Mueller  
Master Sgt. William Howell  
1st Lt. Chris Ryan

## 1st SO Component Maintenance Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Joshua Maher  
Tech. Sgt. Brian Hopkins  
Senior Master Sgt. Bill McCoach  
2nd Lt. Ben Self

## 1st SO Civil Engineer Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Antonio Payne  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Hanson  
Master Sgt. David Willis  
Capt. Krishna Surajbally  
Travis Brown  
James Schuchard

## 1st SO Communications Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Airman Robyn Grinolds  
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Millea  
Senior Master Sgt. Michael Jackson  
2nd Lt. Deana Porter  
Spencer Armour

*Professional performers*

Airman Kathleen Koenig  
Staff Sgt. Czontel Bailey  
Master Sgt. Terry Miller  
2nd Lt. Jeremy Coffman

## 1st SO Mission Support Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Airman Matthew Lehman  
Staff Sgt. Eric Barrera  
Master Sgt. Virginia Schreitmuller  
Capt. Darcy Gustafson  
Sharon Morley  
Vicki Helton

## 1st SO Security Forces Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman James Tavenner  
Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Reynolds  
Master Sgt. Robert Degennaro  
2nd Lt. Tyler Eppes  
Patrick Cooper

*Professional performers*

Senior Airman John Phillips  
Staff Sgt. Scott Hicks  
Nathaniel Lawson

## 1st SO Services Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Kymdra Maness  
Staff Sgt. ShaErica Waters  
Master Sgt. Dary Eubanks  
Michael Bailey  
Nathaniel Harris  
Paul Neville

*Professional performers*

Senior Airman Brett Logan  
Tech. Sgt. Thearsea Smith  
Karen Cataldo  
George Stiles

*Team award*

Marketing

## 14th Weapons Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Tech. Sgt. Shelton Nunez  
Master Sgt. Dennis Martinez  
Capt. Scott Minas  
Capt. Gary Symon

## 25th Information Operations Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Gerson Amaya  
Senior Airman Sean Jurecki  
Tech. Sgt. William Carbaugh  
Tech. Sgt. Joshua Huston  
Senior Master Sgt. Robert O'Dea  
1st Lt. Casey Meyer

## 39th IOS

*Quarterly awards*

Senior Airman Hernan "Gus" Daffara  
Senior Airman Kelli Everman  
Staff Sgt. Holly Mays  
Staff Sgt. Spencer Viera  
Tech. Sgt. Ireli Hinger  
Master Sgt. Layne Nelson

## 505th Communications Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Staff Sgt. James Priesing  
Michelle Palmisano  
Paul Finley

## 505th Training Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

Airman 1st Class Philip Bailey  
Staff Sgt. Jake Nichols  
Capt. Amy Fowler  
Tom Brannon  
James England  
David Hoper  
Daniel Sevier

*Professional performers*

Senior Airman Christopher Bautista  
Master Sgt. Scott Pence

## 705th Training Squadron

*Quarterly awards*

2nd Lt. Joshua Moores  
Ms. Rhonda Berry  
Mr. T. Warren Beagle, Jr.

# SPORTS

## SOSS folds SOCS, 36 – 35

by Dylan Laurie  
Contract writer

The 1st Special Operations Support Squadron intramural basketball team narrowly defeated the 1st Special Operations Communications Squadron 36 – 35 Monday at the Aderholt Fitness Center.

Dereck Lewis, SOSS, led his team, scoring a total

of 12 points. While Wesley Twohig, four points, and Stephen Moneer, two points, contributed to their teams victory.

Mitchell Mason, SOCS, was able to knock down 10 points during the game.

Other SOCS players including Joseph Collins, six points, Joel Rosado, five points, and Damien Hart, two points, managed to keep the game close.

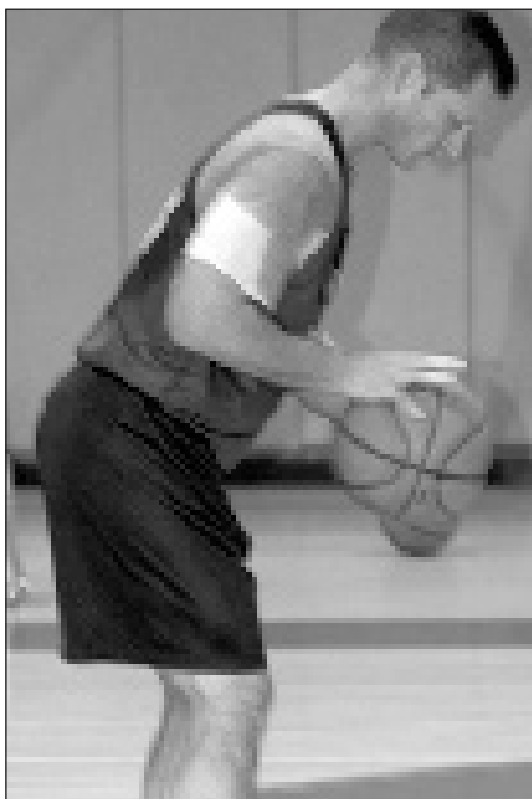


Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly Ogden

A member of the 505th Command and Control Wing prepares to shoot from the free throw line after being fouled by the Special Operations Squadron/823rd REDHORSE squadron.

## 505 CCW defeats SOS/823rd RHS

by Staff Sgt. Kelly Ogden  
COMMANDO editor

The 505th Command and Control Wing sailed past the combined Special Operations Squadron/823rd REDHORSE squadron team 34 – 30 during men's over-30 league intramural basketball Tuesday afternoon at the Aderholt Fitness Center.

In the last minute of the first quarter, the ball traveled up and down the court at least 10 times, providing the audience with lots of action. Each team fouled twice in the first quarter alone.

"One would have thought the sport was tackle football instead of just a 'friendly' game of basketball," observed a spectator.

The first period ended with SOS/RHS taking a 17 – 12 lead.

The game resulted in a 30 – 30 tie, pushing the teams into overtime. However, the 505th CCW was ready for the challenge. They used the extra three minutes of overtime to score two more baskets, which lit a fire under SOS/RHS, causing them to foul the 505th CCW team for the fifth time. Unfortunately the 505th CCW was unable to make the shot, but they still won the ball game.

The win puts the 505th CCW at 2 – 1.



Photo by Dylan Laurie

## HAWC tip of the WEEK

Did you know that eating breakfast can aid in the weight loss process? It's true! Just like a car needs gas, your body is a machine that needs fuel to properly function. When you wake up in the morning, your fuel reserves are on empty, which leads to a sluggish metabolism, reduced mental awareness and a tendency to overeat at your next meal. The best way to boost your metabolism is to eat a well-balanced breakfast within the first two hours of waking.

## STANDINGS

### OVER 30 BASKETBALL

CS	3	0
LRS	2	0
AFSOC	2	0
505 CCW	2	1
MDOS/MDG	2	1
SFS	1	1
SVS	0	2
SOS	0	2
MXG	0	2
CES	0	3

### INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

CES	4	0
4 AMU	3	0
15 AMU	2	0
823 RHS	2	0
342 TRS	2	0
AFSOC/AFSOF	2	0
CMS	2	1
505 CCW	2	1
LRS-A	1	1
AMXS	1	1
1 CS	1	1
SOSS-A	1	1
23 STS	1	1
LRS-B	1	1
SFS	1	1
HMXS	1	2
CPTS	0	1
SOSS-B	0	1
25 IOS	0	1
MDG-A	0	2
73 AMU	0	2
MDG-B	0	3
SVS	0	3
AMMO	0	3



# AFSOC announces 1st SOMDG winners

Congratulations to the following winners:

Airman Kirk Robert

Airman 1st Class Daniell Covington

Airman 1st Class Tiffany Ewing

Airman 1st Class Alina Ness

Airman 1st Class Megan Stanton

Airman 1st Class Angelo Tafoya

Senior Airman Angie Belanger

Senior Airman Richard Bonsra

Senior Airman Erik Melendez

Senior Airman Viji Varkey

Staff Sgt. Daniel Chapman

Staff Sgt. Anthony Furlough

Staff Sgt. Jason Simmons

Staff Sgt. Matthew Zawlaski

Tech Sgt. Cassandra Amos

Tech. Sgt. Omar Hardman

Tech. Sgt. Robert Kimrey

Tech. Sgt. Barbra Mann

Tech. Sgt. Stacey Palmer

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Realy

Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Sugatan

Tech. Sgt. Pearcea Witherspoon

Master Sgt. Joseph Soares

Master Sgt. John Spraglin III

1st Lt. Michelle Derochers

1st Lt. Rachelle Impastato

1st Lt. Carist Verrett

Capt. Chad Barth

Capt. Jane Bowie

Capt. Melinda Creasman  
Capt. Mark Noon

Capt. Kenneth Perry

Capt. James White

Capt. Thuy Vo

Maj. Karen Deaton

Maj. Robert Kesead

Maj. Terence Mitchell

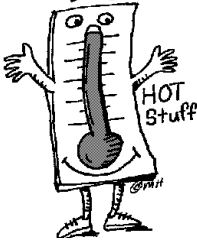
Maj. Gwendolyn Locht

Maj. Javier Ruiz

Maj. Sarah Smith

Lt. Col. Cheryl Scaglione

Ms. Patricia Peters



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Photo by Leigh Shirah

## New year's baby

Trinity Nicole Trudeau was born Jan. 2 to Senior Airman Danielle Trudeau, 1st Special Operations Wing Chaplain Office. Trinity is the first baby born in 2007 for Hurlburt Field.

# Babies! Look who's new pink, blue

## Girls

*Cali Kailani Blodzinski* was born Nov. 24 to 2nd Lt. Jason and Tech. Sgt. Ann Blodzinski, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron.

*Brayanna Nicole Kekai Hala'i Holland* was born Dec. 8 to Staff Sgt. Rolland and Lindsey Holland, Air Force Special Operations Command

*Aubrianna Rhey Ament* was born Dec. 18 to Senior Airman Michael and Tabitha Ament, 1st Special Operations Communications Squadron

*Ashley Taylor Sparks* was born Dec. 18 to Capt. Jeremy and Jessica Sparks, 16th Special Operations Squadron

*Alexa Natalia Colon* was born Dec. 22 to Senior Airman Hector and Barbara Colon, 1st Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

## Boys

*Hunter Lane Gibson and Zachary Joseph Gibson* were born Nov. 27 to Tech. Sgt. Joseph Gibson, 1st Special Operations Maintenance Operations Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Pamela Field, 1st Special Operations Equipment Maintenance Squadron

*Ethan Elias Franco* was born Dec. 3 to Capt. Jose Franco, AFSOC and Karol Rodriguez

*Jordan Isaiah Mario Carter* was born Dec. 8 to Senior Airman Jonathan and Danielle Carter, 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron

*Jamri Deshawn Jones* was born Dec. 9 to Airman 1st Class Amber and Windal Jones, 1st Special Operations Medical Support Squadron

*Aaron Jacob Emery* was born Dec. 10 Capt. David and Denise Emery, AFSOC

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# FISHING – AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS STYLE

Special operators perform refresher training Monday at Soundside.





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branch. "All Airmen identified as being retraining eligible must retrain or face separation under guidelines established for the retraining program."

According to AFPC, these members will be forced to separate on their date of separation/estimated time of separation and will be ineligible for promotions, voluntary assignment consideration, as well as any reenlistments/extensions for the remainder of their current enlistment.

The individual code that is assigned to each individual who fails to retrain may also prevent them from enlisting in any of the other services.

Vulnerability listings by grade and AFSC are posted and will be updated weekly on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/retraining/enlskillasp.asp](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/retraining/enlskillasp.asp).

Airmen should click on the "Retraining" button to view current information.

Phase I of the retraining program provided 1,113 opportunities for retraining into AFSC's with shortages and special duty identifiers.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting Airmen where they are needed most," said Senior Master Sgt. Greg McClain, superintendent of Air Force Enlisted Retraining.

"We will work with those Airmen who are selected for retraining, as we would any retraining case, in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for the Airman and his or her family while still meeting the needs of the Air Force."

For more information, contact command support staff personnel, the base career assistance advisor or the Air Force Contact Center at 800-665-5000.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Rivera

## Commando angels

The 2006 Angel Tree project was responsible for providing 242 children with holiday presents worth more than \$14,000. It was sponsored by the Company Grade Officer Council and chaired by 2nd Lt. Lori Batz, 1st Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron. The 1st Special Operations Wing and the base tenant units participated, with special recognition to the 505th Training Squadron, who donated \$3,000, and to the CGOC, who donated \$1,300.

**1st Special Operations  
Helicopter Maintenance  
Squadron**  
*Bernabe Whitfield*

**1st Special Operations  
Logistics Readiness  
Squadron**  
*Nicole Fuller*

**1st Special Operations  
Medical Operations  
Squadron**  
*David Brazeau*

**11th Intelligence  
Squadron**  
*Steven Rose*

**18th Flight Test Squadron**  
*James Brown*  
*Stacie Ross*

**720th Operations Support  
Squadron**  
*Patrick Collette*  
*Edmund Loughran*

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